

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 06722 092046Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1661

UNCLAS MADRID 6722

FOR EUR/WE

FOR OMB AND CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION (FOR DOUGLAS HOFF,
INTERNATIONAL VISITORS OFFICE)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIN, SP, OVIP (BAREA, JOSE)
SUBJ: ASSISTANCE IN BUDGET TECHNIQUES/WASHINGTON VISIT OF
SPANISH UNDERSECRETARY OF FINANCE

REF: STATE 201521, MADRID 6143

1. SPAIN'S BUDGET REFORM EFFORT IS HEADED BY JOSE BAREA,
UNDERSECRETARY OF FINANCE FOR BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES.
BAREA HAS ALSO TAKEN A PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE PROFFERED
U.S. BUDGET ASSISTANCE. HIS CHIEF OF STAFF FOR BUDGET
REFORM, LUIS BENEYTO, TOLD US ON SEPTEMBER 8 THAT BAREA
WOULD LIKE TO MEET A SENIOR OMB OFFICIAL WHEN HE VISITS
WASHINGTON SEPTEMBER 26-27 FOR THE ANNUAL IMF/WORLD BANK
MEETINGS. BENEYTO SAID THAT BAREA WOULD LIKE THE MEETING
TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH HIS U.S. COUNTERPART AND TO
DISCUSS A GENERAL APPROACH FOR THE SUBSEQUENT VISIT OF
SPANISH BUDGET EXPERTS. BAREA UNDERSTANDS THAT THE SHORT
CALL HE PROPOSES WOULD NOT ALLOW TIME FOR A DISCUSSION
OF U.S. BUDGET SYSTEMS. THE REQUESTED CALL SHOULD BE
COORDINATED WITH SR. CALVELLO, THE SPANISH EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR AT THE WORLD BANK, AND CONFIRMED THROUGH US.
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PAGE 02 MADRID 06722 092046Z

2. THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE ALSO PROPOSES THAT THE U.S.
VISIT OF THE SPANISH BUDGET EXPERTS ALREADY IN THE MILL
(REFTELS) NOW BE FIRMLY SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 31 TO NOVEMBER 11.
THE SCHEDULE DESIRED REMAINS THAT AGREED TO IN MADRID 1086
AND PREVIOUS CALBES, BUT SUBJECT TO ANY CHANGES WHICH MAY BE
RECOMMENDED BY THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION. THE SPANISH

GROUP WOULD INCLUDE BENEYTO, FISCAL STUDIES INSTITUTE DEPUTY DIRECTOR CEFERINO ARGUILLO AND ONE OR TWO KEY OFFICIALS YET TO BE NAMED.

3. ACTIONS REQUESTED: UNDERSECRETARY BAREA IS A KEY MEMBER OF THE SPANISH ECONOMIC TEAM (SEE MADRID 6429) AND WE RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT SEEK AN APPOINTMENT FOR HIM WITH AN OMB DEPUTY DIRECTOR OR ANOTHER TOP BUDGET OFFICIAL. WE ALSO APPRECIATE THE EFFORT THAT THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION HAS ALREADY MADE ON BEHALF OF THE SPANISH BUDGET EXPERTS, AND WOULD LIKE TO BE ADVISED IF THE DATES NOW PROPOSED ARE ACCEPTABLE.EATON

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